

# SPRINGSTIMES

Your Sandy Springs News Source

## Greetings!



As Sandy Springs embarks into its second year, we look to several initiatives that will improve our City. The Sandy Springs Fire Department will be inaugurated this December. We have a dedicated cadre of firefighters under the leadership of Chief Jack McElfish, who will give prompt response to our emergencies.

One of the most notable directions of our new Fire Department is its emphasis on Emergency Medical Service. An analysis of responses by Fulton County in 2005 shows that more than 60 percent of all calls are medical emergencies, including cardiac arrests or strokes. Rapid response is essential. And, of course, the responder must deftly apply life-saving procedures.

That is why our Fire Department has worked closely with emergency care physicians from Emory Hospital to institute a citywide program to handle emergency medical care. The plan is not only to have trained firemen, but also police officers and also envisions installation of defibrillators in schools, office buildings and any locations where people congregate. Our mission is to save lives.

A continuing priority for the City of Sandy Springs is to attract redevelopment along the Roswell Road corridor. This year should see ground breaking on a major mixed-use project in the heart of the commercial district by City Walk. This will encompass retail uses, as well as residential towers and the "greening" of its parking deck by the use of considerable landscaping materials. Farther south on Roswell Road, the Sembler Co. is redeveloping The Prado Shopping Center and has worked in cooperation with the Sandy Springs Design Review Board and the City planning staff to produce a frontage along Roswell Road, which will be visually attractive.

Another major construction project just under way is the new national headquarters building for Newell Rubbermaid Corp. on Glenlake Drive. This 350,000 square-foot building will serve as home base to the various divisions of this Fortune 500 company.

As you can see, this new year brings many exciting new projects to the forefront and showcases our City in a grand way. We look forward to the new developments but also to enjoying the tried-and-true aspects we love about Sandy Springs. That's why we call it home.

Mayor Eva Galambos, Ph.D.  
City of Sandy Springs

## 30350 ZIP code now officially 'Sandy Springs'

Residents and businesses in the 30350 ZIP code may now be feeling more a part of Sandy Springs. Instead of writing "Atlanta" on their mail, the US Postal Service, as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, is permitting people to write "Sandy Springs."

The Atlanta District of the US Postal Service worked with Mayor Eva Galambos, Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) and retired Postmaster Herb Daws to make the change.

"It was important that we make the many businesses and homeowners in the 30350 area feel like they're part of the City," said Mayor Galambos. "As the seventh-largest City in Georgia, we really wanted to be recognized as

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*Traffic engineers work to time traffic signals in the City.*

## First Year in Review

Sandy Springs may still be a young city, but it is proud of the many milestones it has accomplished since its inauguration on December 1, 2005.

As the City bustles with activity, the Sandy Springs Police Department, launched this past July, has been actively patrolling City streets to help keep residents safe. They have responded to more than 6,000 calls for service each month and have averaged more than 315 monthly arrests. Neighborhood Watch programs are being established across the City. Members of more than 20 homeowners associations have taken part in two rallies where they have learned how to start their own neighborhood watch programs to reduce crime and enhance their overall security.

Motorists in the City most likely have—and will continue to—notice many transportation improvements, thanks to the City's dedication to protecting the safety of its citizens and visitors on its roadways. The Public Works department has striped more than 25 miles of roadway and used more than 1,300 tons of asphalt for pothole, sinkhole and pavement repair. The department's traffic signal division has replaced 50 vehicle loop detectors, replaced bulbs with brighter LEDs at 14 intersections, inspected three new traffic signal installations, completed 948 traffic signal work orders and replaced more than 415 traffic signal bulbs. This division has also improved traffic signal timing at 42 intersections for better coordination and has upgraded video detection at seven intersections.

To date, the City's Community Development department has issued 286 sign permits, completed 49 rezonings and approved more than 235 design review plans.

Also within the Community Development Department, the City began the process of drafting its Comprehensive Plan in July 2006 and made community involvement the focal point in this process. Over the course of four months, several public input meetings were held around the City to invite citizen comment about recreation, transportation and land use improvements and ideas for the future. A key group of individuals with a vested interest in recreation gathered at City Hall on October 30 to discuss recreation and greenspace needs from a stakeholder perspective. All citizen and stakeholder input was recorded, carefully considered and incorporated into a Community Assessment document that was presented at two public hearings on November 29 and 30. In other recreation news, more than 2,000 children, ages 18 months to 17 years, have taken advantage of the varied recreation programs available through the City's Recreation and Parks Department.

Also in July, a Proposed Future Land Use Map was approved that will guide building and development across the City. With this map, the City hopes to encourage more vibrant and unique development in the central business core along the Roswell Road corridor. This map is available to view on the City's Web site: [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org). Click on Community Development, then Planning & Zoning.

With all that has been accomplished, Sandy Springs has still seen cost savings in comparison to other cities. Sandy Springs' innovative Citizen Response Center (CRC) is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, allowing important service requests to be received and responded to as quickly and efficiently as possible. To date, the CRC has

## Awards, Media Attention Surround Sandy Springs

The City of Sandy Springs has seen a flurry of media coverage and award recognition, with television reports appearing on FOX News, CNN and CNBC, along with articles in USA Today, the Christian Science Monitor and The New York Times.

The news coverage centered on the ground-breaking relationship between the City and its contract partner, CH2M HILL OMI. Reports during the past two months have featured Mayor Eva Galambos, City Manager John McDonough and several Sandy Springs dignitaries and citizens. Also featured in the broadcasts and articles were instances in which residents received prompt service from the City, sometimes after waiting an extended period for the county to deliver the same service.

Awards of excellence have also brought recognition to Sandy Springs during the quarter. They include Councilmember Ashley Jenkins' 2006 Community Service Award for her advocacy and education efforts. The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)/Council on Aging 2005-2006 for Creating Senior Friendly Communities Project awarded Jenkins the honor.

The City and CH2M HILL OMI received honors from the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships. The Public-Private Partnership Innovation Award recognized Sandy Springs as the first City in the nation to outsource all municipal functions (except public safety) to one private company.



# Fire Department Gets Ready to Roll



Firefighters will have the latest equipment to combat fires.

The Sandy Springs Fire Department is steadily rolling toward its launch on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Department employees have been recruited from across the metro area and will cross-train to perform different jobs duties. All drivers will be Class B licensed and their trucks will be outfitted with GPS units.

More than 100 candidates for firefighter positions completed the required agility testing. A group of 18 was selected to participate in a five-week training program leading to Georgia certification in firefighter I, hazardous materials and CPR 34. Candidates have also submitted to background checks, drug screening and have been scrutinized by three assessment boards.

Positions the department has filled in recent weeks include deputy chief of operations, fire marshal, assistant chief/training coordinator and fire protection engineer. Sandy Springs is still seeking qualified part-time employees for the new Fire Department and is offering the option of flexible, 12-hour shifts.

The department has also been busy purchasing and preparing equipment. The City Council recently approved the purchase of small equipment to furnish the Fire Department vehicles, including the Jaws of Life, hoses, defibrillators and other emergency equipment. The radios are being programmed to the frequencies that Fulton County Communications has assigned Sandy Springs. These radios are capable of communicating with other jurisdictions as well.

The City's fire engine manufacturer, Pierce Fire Trucks, is scheduled to deliver two heavy-duty pumper trucks and one quint, a multi-task machine that carries water, in November. Three more quints are scheduled for completion in early-December.

Properties the City will acquire for fire stations include 139 Johnson Ferry Road (Station 2), 1425 Spalding Drive (Station 6, *renumbered Station 1*), 6025 Heard's Road (Station 22, *renumbered Station 3*). The City will lease the property at 4697 Wieuca Road (Station 39, *renumbered Station 4*).

Citizens are encouraged to watch the Sandy Springs Web site ([www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org)) for details on the upcoming Fire Department inaugural celebration.

## Neighbors Join Forces to Combat Crime

In October, there were 264 Part I property crimes in the City of Sandy Springs; these are all the burglaries, thefts and vehicle thefts combined. Crime in Sandy Springs dropped from September to October, due to the diligence of our residents.

Forty-eight Neighborhood Watch Programs were brought over from Fulton County and more are being added. We still need you, though. Here's how it works:



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Chief Gene Wilson receives a public safety award from Governor Sonny Perdue.

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Police Chief Gene Wilson received the 2006 Governor's Public Safety Award from Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue for dedication and selfless work in public safety.

The Sandy Springs Web site ([www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org)) won a Bronze Flame Award from the International Association of Business Communicators during its annual Golden Flame Award ceremony in Atlanta.

Finally, Georgia Trend magazine named Marcus Kellum, Code Enforcement chief, one of its "40 Under 40" in Georgia. The honor, based on 300 nominations, focuses on 40 people under age of 40 "who will lead our state's commercial, cultural, academic and governmental institutions into the future."

**Sandy Springs Citizen  
Response Center  
770.730.5600**

**Sandy Springs Web site  
[www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org)**

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answered in excess of 66,000 citizen calls. The number of personnel in City departments is carefully aligned to department needs, allowing Sandy Springs to accomplish a great deal with a comparatively small number of staff.

After wrapping up its first productive year, Sandy Springs looks ahead to a bright and productive future in 2007. The City has allocated \$5 million for capital improvement projects in FY07, compared to the \$1.5 million that was allocated in FY06. More than 12 capital improvement projects are under way or slated to begin in early 2007, including pedestrian enhancements at Sandy Springs Circle and Hammond Drive and further streetscape improvements along the Roswell Road corridor.

Though still young, Sandy Springs hopes to continue to be recognized as a City that listens to citizens and shapes a vision for the future based on what the community cares most about. With safety, security and transportation improvements as top-priority concerns, we look forward to prosperous a 2007.

*“30350” continued from cover*

more than just a part of metro Atlanta. This will help us maintain our unique identity.”

Addresses in the 30350 ZIP code join those in 30328, which had already been using the Sandy Springs designation on their mail. US Postal Service officials say it may take time for businesses and organizations to make the transition.

## It's All in the Plan



*Sandy Springs residents have their voices heard at a community meeting.*

The past several months have shed light on what citizens would like to see in the future for the new City of Sandy Springs. In July, the City began its comprehensive planning process by inviting public comment to gain a closer understanding of what the future should—and may—look like in terms of transportation, recreation and park facilities, programs and overall land use. The Community Assessment and Participation components of the planning process continued from July until October 2006, with a series of public input meetings being convened at locations around the City. All public input was recorded and will be used to develop an initial plan for citizens to view and respond.

“We want to listen to Sandy Springs’ citizens and balance their desires for stable, residential neighborhoods with their needs for a strong industry base and accessible routes to and from work and school,” said Vann McNeill, program director for the Community Development Block Grant program. “That’s why we’re taking such a critical look at where we are now, as a City and where we want to go.”

Preliminary community assessment findings show there is a vision to transform the Roswell Road corridor from a suburban, auto-oriented area into a mixed-use area served by a variety of transportation options. Among other improvements, residents would like to see traffic congestion reduced in major “hot spots” and additions such as sidewalks and bicycle paths in neighborhoods to enhance connectivity between neighborhoods, parks and business districts. Citizens have also shown strong interest in having a designated dog park within City limits, in addition to other recreation facilities.

For online updates about all sections of the Sandy Springs Comprehensive Plan, visit [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org) and click on City Government, then Comprehensive Plan.

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- Form a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss the needs of your community.
- Gauge the level of interest and potential problems.
- Decide on a date and place for an initial Neighborhood Watch meeting. You will need to provide a map of the subdivision, condo or apartment community, a list of the streets and a current e-mail contact list.
- Contact Lt. Steve Rose at [steve.rose@sandyspringsga.org](mailto:steve.rose@sandyspringsga.org), and notify him of your interest to start a Neighborhood Watch.
- The program requires at least 40 percent participation from the community residents.

Also, each district is assigned a Patrol Commander to work with residents. Patrol Commanders will identify the communities within their area of responsibility; educate the community about crime activity in their area; and collectively develop proactive solutions to concerns in the community. Together we can make a difference in our community. To find out who the Patrol Commander is in your district, visit [www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org).